Possible Brother of Tim Dear with Mack Truck, c. 1927–1931, Southern California (Vail Dear Steel Box, Roll 50)

Reflections

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This photograph comes from the Vail Dear Steel Box — a collection of family images my grandfather, Tim Dear, set aside for safekeeping. I believe he kept this box tucked away, high up in the far reaches of his closet. The fact that this photo was placed there suggests it held some personal importance to him. Given the other images in the box, my strong guess is that the man pictured is very likely one of his brothers.

The setting, with palm trees in the background, is very likely California. One possibility is Allen Cecil Dear, who lived in Southern California during this period, though it's unclear whether he had a family. The presence of the woman and child — whose identities are unknown — adds another layer of mystery to the scene.

The truck is a Mack, produced approximately between 1927 and 1931, which provides a tight date range for the image. The youngest child appears to be under eighteen months old, which may help narrow the date further once the family is identified. I'm hoping Wally Dunsmoor will be able to help determine who is in the photo.

The print measures 5 ¾ inches by 3 7⁄16 inches. The back is stamped "50" — possibly indicating "Roll 50" — a detail worth noting in case other images with the same stamp are found, which could help link them to the same period and photographic session.